

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

February 19, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on February 19, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Glenview Golf Course with the following members present: Mmes. Driehaus and Robinson and Messrs. Fultz and Smith, with Ms. Driehaus presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Barnes, Simmons, Shannon, Watson, Cox and Arszman, and Messrs. Merrifield, Koopman, Thomas, Williams, Woods, Carlisle, and Celsor.

RECOGNITION OF CRC PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Ms. Driehaus recognized the CRC Public Art Committee for all their hard work and for being responsible for doing an inventory of CRC art works. Kate Kern and Kristin Dietsche were in attendance at the meeting and accepted certificates of appreciation and thanks from the Commission for the wonderful job they and the committee has done. Ms. Driehaus also recognized and thanked Carolyn Gutjahr for her past services.

RECOGNITION OF BUNNY ARSZMAN

Dr. Merrifield thanked Ms. Arszman for the outstanding work she does for the department. Her video on the RiverTrek Program won an award from the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association. A short portion of the video was shown at the meeting. Ms. Arszman also prepares a scrapbook of the event for the event participants. Commission thanked Ms. Arszman for her work and dedication.

MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2008 Public Recreation Commission meeting as submitted.

Motion passed.

BIDS

The Commission Action Forms regarding the renovations of the Riverfront Tennis courts that were submitted to Commission were incorrect. Westside Paving & Excavating's bid of \$106,470.00 did not meet SBE requirements, however the bid was an acceptable low bid by outbidding the closest bidder by 10% or more (in accordance with CMC 321-37(c)).

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the low bid of Westside Paving & Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$106,470 for the renovation of the Riverfront venue tennis courts.

Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to Mayor Mallory from Warren M. Solar

Mayor Mallory received a letter regarding a City Beat article describing Vision Trek. Mr. Solar added his praise and admiration for this program. This item was received for filing.

Letter to Marketia Hoff from Thomas O. Bowns, CPA

Ms. Hoff received a letter from Ozie Bowns, Our Lady of Lourdes, thanking her for her assistance in getting field and concession permits for their football program at Oskamp Park during 2007 and relating how excellent the field maintenance was. This item was received for filing.

Email from Mary Cox Regarding Bunny Arszman

Mary Cox sent an email of congratulations regarding Bunny Arszman's superior award in the New Media/Electronic Media category from OPRA. This DVD was on the RiverTrek program. This item was received for filing.

Enquirer Article

There was an article in *The Enquirer* Hometown Section highlighting the Mt. Washington tumbling class. This item was received for filing.

Forest Hills Journal Article

The Forest Hills Journal ran an article about the newly formed Mt. Washington Recreation Center basketball league. This item was received for filing.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Introduction of Youth Commission Member

Dr. Merrifield introduced Brittany Robinson, our new Youth Commission Member. Ms. Robinson is a student at the School of Creative and Performing Arts. Dr. Merrifield stated that we are hoping that Ms. Robinson's appointment and leadership will encourage others in her age group to participate in CRC activities.

Ms. Robinson informed that she has been a member of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission centers since she was 5 years old. She has attended Day Camp at the centers and has been involved in the golf program and also RiverTrek. She is very excited to be our Youth Commission Member and thanked Commissioners for this opportunity.

2008 CRC Budget

Dr. Merrifield provided copies of the '06-'07 Core Focus Areas (CFA)/Programs Budget. He explained that this is just a FYI for Commissioners to look at. This format is more manageable in terms of our internal discussions. It is easier to work with and will help raise the awareness and value of what we do. We will submit the City format as well.

Program Highlight – Golf Division, Rob Williams

Rob Williams informed that 2007 was a very good year for the Golf Division. Revenue was up 5% and Rounds were up 1%. This is especially notable since numbers in the other golf venues in the lower Midwest area are down.

Each year the Golf Division recognizes the "Star Performer" of the courses. This year Avon Fields Golf Course won the award again. Avon has won the award 4 of the 5 years it has been presented. The award is given for

outstanding customer service and golf shop service and conditions. Mr. Fultz and Rev. Smith commented on the wonderful service they have received at the Avon Fields Golf Course and the great course conditions.

Mr. Williams provided Commissioners with the 2008 Golf Annual Plan to review. The Plan will be on the March 4th, 2008 agenda for approval.

Mr. Williams introduced Joe Livingood from Billy Casper Golf. Mr. Livingood stated that Casper Golf and CRC have been together for 6 years now and it has been wonderful to watch the golf program grow here in Cincinnati.

Steve Pacella advised that in 2007 there was an increase in league fees and outing fees and that senior play was up a little from the previous year. 2007 revenue was \$6.4 million and the net operating income was \$387,557.00.

Jill Timon reported on the marketing initiatives. There were 2 for 1 greens fee offers, senior specials, customer retention programs, and other similar programs throughout the year. There was a 14% increase in number of outings in 2007, 19% increase in rounds, and 22% increase in revenue. CRC's top line revenue increased \$146,520 in 2007. CRC's top line merchandise program winner for 2007 was Gary Roeder. Mr. Roeder won 3 holes of golf with Tiger Woods. The food and beverage sales increased 9% over 2006.

Billy Casper Golf goals for 2008 are to exceed revenue and rounds and provide new and improved training.

NEW BUSINESS

12 Game Softball League Fee for Women

Several women softball teams/players are requesting a 12 game league in addition to the 10 game league. In an effort to make fees more user friendly staff would like to initiate a 12 game league fee of \$415.00 to accommodate these participants.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the addition of a 12 game women's softball league fee of \$415.00.

Motion passed.

Resolution of Authorization to ODNR for Grant for Riverside Boat Ramp

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the application for and acceptance of a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance for improvements to the Riverside Boat Ramp.

Motion passed.

Resolution of Authorization to ODNR for Grant for Schmidt Boat Ramp

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the application for and acceptance of a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance for improvements to the Schmidt Boat Ramp.

Motion passed.

Application for and Acceptance of ODNR 2008 Boating Safety Education Grant for Paddle & Sail Safe Cincinnati

CRC requested \$29,988.00 in grant money from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources 2008 Boating Safety Education Grant for the Paddle & Sail Safe Cincinnati program but was awarded \$6,543.00. CRC's match is \$71,826.00 in personnel costs and is funded through the current budget so no additional appropriation is required.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the application for and acceptance of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources 2008 Boating Safety Education Grant in the amount of \$6,543.00.

Motion passed.

Request for use of CRC Controlled Property

MSD is required by the consent decree with the EPA to do extensive modifications to the sewer system over the next 20 years. They are asking Commission's permission to use the area of center field of the ball field at Rakestraw to do required modifications to the sewer system. The work will start after the end of ball season (end of August) and should be complete before the beginning of the next season. This will cause interruption to the soccer field.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to grant permission to MSD for use the area of center field of the ball field at Rakestraw to do required modifications to the sewer system.

Motion passed.

New Policy #PFO-24 – Gating of Sawyer Point Park

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the new policy PFO-24 – Gating of Sawyer Point Park, with the adjustments made in the revision of the new policy.

Motion passed.

Child and Adult Food Program

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve CRC participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The projected annual snack reimbursement for ODE's 2008 fiscal year is \$262,180.80.

Motion passed.

Field Trips

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted.

Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, that an Executive Session of the Recreation Commission be held pursuant to Section 121.22(G) of the Ohio Revised Code for charges or complaints against employees to consider the dismissal, discipline or demotion of a public employee. Roll call: Rev. Smith, yes; Ms. Driehaus, yes; Mr. Fultz, yes.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith to come out of Executive Session and resume the General Session.

Motion passed.

Personnel Issue

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation that Stephen Sturwold receive a 40 hour suspension and a referral to PEAP (Public Employees Assistance Program) where he will receive counseling and/or treatment in addition to a mandatory drug test before he can

return to work, for violation of Administrative Regulation 52, Substance Abuse Policy.

Motion passed.

COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Bond Hill Community Center – 1501 Elizabeth Place (37).

Meeting Adjourned.

Denise M. Driehaus, President

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed. D., Director

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